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US ARMY

USAG Schinnen Tri-Border News Notes



St. Martin...the Dutch Halloween??

By Rita Hoefnagels

With the exception of Great Britain, Halloween is not celebrated anywhere in Europe. Halloween has its origins in times the Celts decided to celebrate New Year on November 1. The Celts, who migrated from Asia, had settled in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales and brought their heathen beliefs as well.

They believed that on the last day of the year (October 31) the souls of the deceased would return home. This meant of course that you had to welcome these poor souls, who hadn't been home for a whole year, and open the doors for them so they could warm themselves at the fire and - although they couldn't eat anymore - inhale the smell of the roast.

But not only souls visited then. It was also a night that witches, demons and other nasty ghouls would roam around and scare everyone. To prevent these nasty beings staying around the rest of the year, large fires were lighted which burned all night. These fires and brave men, armed with pitchforks, dancing around the fires while letting out blood-curdling screams kept the ghosts and demons away.

The Catholic Church in those early years didn't really want to accept a fest in which ghosts, witches and other demons played a role. They decided to have a fest in the same time for one of their own: Saint Martin.

The life of Saint Martin, Sint Maarten or Sint Martinus in Dutch, is based on a legend. Martin was born in the year 316 in now-days Hungary. He joined the Roman

Army, became an officer and was knighted by the emperor. Besides being a good soldier he was also known for his beneficent and after a while he decided to be baptized and become a monk. Martin founded several monasteries in France and was made bishop of Tours in 372.

Sulpicius Severus, a contemporary, wrote the following story about him. When Martin was still a soldier, he and his men traveled through France. It started to rain and it got really cold. The men, all on horse, just wanted to get to the closest city as fast as possible before the gates would close for the

real benefactor and shared everything he owed. Martin died on 11 November in the year 397 and Tours became a place of pilgrimage.

In 480 Saint Martin's Day (November 11) became officially the beginning of the church year and was known as the period leading to Christ's birth. After Martin was canonized, his death day became a religious holiday. Martin became, among others, the patron saint for the poor people and for children. Saint Martin is also the patron saint for soldiers, cavalry, beggars, travelers, prisoners, shepherds and more.

Poor people would knock on the farmer's doors on this day to ask for food after all preparations for winter were done, cattle were slaughtered and the harvest was brought in, and because it was now custom to give to the needy on Nov. 11 the poor would be sure to have something extra for winter.

Saint Martin now-a-days is a fest for the children. Traditionally, children make their own lantern out of paper, carton, or a hollow out sugar beet or pumpkin. This they will carry while they knock on doors and sing songs for some candy. Yes, the only difference with Halloween is they are not in costume.

Bonfires are also lighted in some towns. This fire, sign of light, warmth and security, would chase away the ghosts; keep away contagious diseases and further fertility. Ask your Dutch neighbors if they know of a Saint Martin's Fire in your town and don't forget to have candy or oranges or apples ready for the children who will surely knock on your door on Nov. 11.



Young Dutch children go door-to-door carrying traditional lanterns and singing for treats during the Dutch holiday, St. Martin, held each year Nov. 11.

night. All the men spurred the horses, except Martin he spared his horse. The weather got worse and soon Martin was caught in a blizzard but he made it in time to the city's gates.

When he arrived at the city's gates, he saw a beggar dressed in rags, who would surely not survive the cold night. Martin cut his warm cloak in two and gave one half to the beggar. That night Martin dreamt of Jesus wearing his half of the cloak. This made quite an impression on him and he decided to become a monk. He was a

**AFN SHAPE on
Satellite Channel 21**



NEWS

Battle of the Bulge Memorial Walk Set for Dec. 16

By USAREUR Public Affairs

The 29th annual Battle of the Bulge Memorial Walk is scheduled for Dec. 16 in Bastogne, Belgium.

Participants may choose to walk for six, 14 or 20 kilometers. The self-paced trek begins 8 a.m. at Porte de Trèves Sports Center, near the Mardasson Memorial and the Bastogne Historical Center.

The 4 Euro per person registration fee includes a certificate from the city of Bastogne, a walk brochure and a cloth patch commemorating the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

Pre-registration and payment before Dec. 2 is strongly recommended.

Walkers can also register at the starting point on the day of the walk between 7 and 9 a.m. The non-reserved registration fee is 5

Euros.

There will be a limited number of open-bay billets available to NATO Soldiers for a small fee.

The walk concludes with wreath-laying ceremonies in the center of Bastogne. The public is invited to participate in the memorial parade and the traditional "nut throwing" immediately following the memorial ceremonies.

Persons interested in participating who live in Germany, England and Italy are asked to register via e-mail at ed.germany@t-online.de, by fax at (+49) (0)6507-80-2617 or by calling (+49) (0) 6507-8292.

Participants from Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg are asked to send an e-mail to sb325983@skynet.be or call (+32) (0) 2-687-6158.

Tri-Border Community Run Enhances Units Esprit d' corps

By LaDonna Davis

Soldiers and civilians from the Benelux area took part in a 2.8 mile Community Run, Nov. 7 at the Schinnen Emma Mine Complex.

Approximately 100 Soldiers and civilians from Northern Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands participated in the team building exercise led by the USAG Benelux Commander, Col. Nowowiejski.

"This is all about being a community and a big family," said Nowowiejski. "If you went down the line of participants, you'd see that we're an international community with the Dutch NCO Academy here, we're a joint community with the Air Force here, and then we're a community within a community as we have people that came over from Chièvres, Belgium and from Brussels, Belgium and from the home team Schinnen, plus we have our great civilian work force that make things happen all the time."

A community run is held approximately every quarter as a way to bring supported command soldiers together to exercise good team building skills and good community relations.

As some participants waited for the run to begin, they would perform various warming up routines including stretching, jogging in place, and yelling to help with breathing and stamina.

All participants in the run lined up at 7:45 in the morning for opening remarks by Nowowiejski. By 8 a.m. the runners were off doing a swift sprint outside the gates of USAG Schinnen.



Soldiers and civilians from across the Benelux community participated in this quarters community run held at USAG Schinnen Emma Mine Complex, Nov. 7

After the run, participants all gathered in the Schinnen Sports Complex for a viewing of the new Army Strong video and for a brief holiday safety message from Nowowiejski.

"I think it's a good campaign because it really talks about the main thing that we have, and that's the Soldier," said Nowowiejski. "So, you just celebrated being a Soldier out there running. It's about working as a team. We're a community of nations, a community of allies, we're a joint community, and we're a community across the Benelux."

With the holiday season upon us, Nowowiejski stressed the importance of winter driving and motorcycle safety and the dangers of drinking and driving.

"You should not take safety for granted, we have a pretty good track record out here, but as a commander, I don't ever want to get a 2 a.m. emergency notification call," he said. "The best protection you got is your buddy."

The morning's activities were complete with a fresh and hot breakfast cooked by members of the Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers program.

"If you're Dutch, Air Force or Army it's all about the same values, we're all in this together; it's about the values that we share, as Soldiers, as military personnel," Nowowiejski said.

NEWS

AFNORTH High School Honor Students become National Honor Society Members

By Nadine Moore-Wiley

Ten students in grades 10-12 were inducted into the membership of the National Honor Society in an evening ceremony in front of friends, family and faculty at AFNORTH High School, Sept. 28.

Members were selected by a faculty council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership and character.

The new members are: Wilson Beaver, Eric Bouchard, Matthew Hyland, Brittney Leeming, Megan McQuillan, Sarah Noble, Mary Kathryn Rash, Cynthia Rueger, Christopher Sawyer and Nicole White.

National Honor Society members are expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school and community. Currently, NHS members are planning to offer after-school tutoring in conjunction with the IYS services al-

ready available on the AFNORTH Base and in Geilenkirchen.

Guest speaker, Penny Gibson drew on her own experiences as a high school honor society member to share with the new members the value of retaining character and serving selflessly for the greater good. "Balance," she said "is the key to life-long success."

The AFNorth High School Chapter has been active since 1969, then recognized as the AF-CENT Chapter, and membership since then totals over totals over 200.

The National Honor Society ranks as one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students. Chapters exist in three-fourths of the nation's high schools and,

since 1921, more than six million students have been selected for membership. More than two million dollars in scholarships have been awarded to senior members since 1945 by the sponsoring organization, the National Association of Secondary School Principles.



Ten high school students from AFNORTH raise their right hand as they're inducted into the National Honor Society as new members, Sept. 28.

Dental and Vision Insurance Available During Open Season

The Federal Employees Health Benefits, Flexible Spending Accounts and Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program Open Seasons will be held from Nov. 13 to Dec. 11, 2006. During this open season eligible employees can enroll or make changes to their health benefits, flexible spending accounts and dental and vision insurance program. OPM selected MetLife, GEHE, United Concordia, Aetna, GHI, CompBenefits, and Triple-S to offer dental benefits and Vision Services Plan, BCBS Vision, and Spectera to offer vision benefits under the new Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program which will begin Dec. 31, 2006. To enroll/change health benefits, employees must access the Army Benefits Center civilian website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call the toll-free number at 1-877-276-9287. Information on FEHB plan rates for 2007 can be found at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/index.asp>. To enroll in the Federal Flexible Spending Account (FSA) Program go to www.fsafeds.com or call their toll-free number (1-877-372-3337). Remember, current FSA Program participants must re-enroll to participate. Employees will enroll in the FEDVIP on the new BENEFEDS website during open season. More details on the enrollment process will be available prior to open season. Rates and Benefits Summary for the new FEDVIP can be found at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/dentalvision/07rates.asp>.

A listing of the FEHB 2007 rates can be found at: <http://www.opm.gov/insure/health/07rates/index.asp>.

NEWS

World record power-lifter hosts upcoming official's clinic

By IMCOM Public Affairs

Johnny "Truck" Graham, a former world record holder and retired military veteran, has been selected to return to the 2006 Power-lifting Officials Clinic at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Training and Development Center, from Oct. 31 through Nov. 4 in Schwetzingen, Germany. The yearly clinics prepare garrison officials to officiate clinics at their installations for military programs.

Graham began lifting when he was stationed at Hohenfels in 1986, and later went on to set a world record, squatting 804 lbs and dead-lifting 727 lbs. He is a Department of the Army Master Fitness

Trainer and is currently the USA Power-lifting Vice-President, National Masters Chairman, National Masters Chairman Coach, Fort Hood Power-lifting Coach, and has recently won his 8th Power-lifting World Championship.

During the officials training, clinic attendees will learn the current rules, rule interpretations, points of emphasis, rule changes, and plate form work of power-lifting.

The clinic will culminate with a written test and practical examination, which will consist of officiating the upcoming 2006 IMCOM-EURO MWR Power-lifting Tournament.

The 2006 IMCOM-EURO MWR Power-lifting Tournament will be held on Nov. 4 at Patton Barracks in Heidelberg. Weigh-ins and registration for the tournament will begin at 8 a.m. The Power-lifting meet begins at 10 a.m.

The event is free and open to U.S. ID cardholders.

For information on becoming a sports official, contact Tom Hlavacek at the MWR Training and Development Center at DSN 379-7693 or Eddie Beck at the Heidelberg Sports and Fitness Office at DSN 373-8032.

Soldiers can voice opinion with BOSS online survey

Opportunity for Soldiers to tell the Army what programming they want

By IMCOM Public Affairs

Want to tell the Army what you think about the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program and what programs you want to see in your garrison? Soldiers can voice their opinion through the BOSS online survey by going to www.mwr-europe.com and clicking on the BOSS logo.

The BOSS survey is quick and easy and generally takes less than five minutes to complete. Soldiers can weigh in on such topics as what activities they would like to participate in, what their interests are, leisure activity preferences, their impression of the BOSS pro-

gram at their garrison, and what changes they would like to see.

The BOSS survey is being administered as a service to Army garrison MWR programs by the Family and MWR Command in Alexandria, Va. The survey data will be rolled up periodically and results provided to garrisons.

BOSS is a dynamic program dedicated to support the overall quality of single Soldier' lives (defined as bona fide bachelors, geographical bachelors, and single parents) by providing them an effective voice at the installation where they serve.

The BOSS program identi-

fies real quality of life issues and concerns by recommending improvements through the chain of command. BOSS also assists single Soldiers in identifying and planning for recreational and leisure activities, and gives them the opportunity to participate in and contribute to their communities.

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is a program of Installation Management Command-Europe Region Morale, Welfare and Recreation. For more information on the BOSS program in Europe, go to www.mwr-europe.com.

NEWS

U.S. Army Soldier Show accepting applications for 2007 auditions

Performers and technicians needed for worldwide tour

By AIMC-Europe Public Affairs

Soldier-entertainers have until Dec. 29 to apply for an audition for the 2007 U.S. Army Soldier Show. The Army Entertainment Division in Alexandria, Va., is seeking vocalists, dancers, musicians and specialty acts, as well as technicians in the areas of audio, lighting, video, costume and stage management.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show is a high-energy 90-minute live musical review showcasing the talents of active duty Soldiers who are selected by audition from throughout the Army. Active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component Soldiers who are amateur entertainers are all eligible to participate in the ensemble production that provides "entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier" during a six-month tour of Army installations. Applicants must be deployable worldwide, as the U.S. Army Soldier Show tour includes overseas areas.

Applications to audition for the 2007 U.S. Army Soldier Show must reach the following address no later than 29 Dec., 2006: U.S. Army Soldier Show, ATTN: 2007 Selection Committee, P.O. Box 439, Fort Belvoir, Va., 22060.

All applications must include: Soldier's name, rank, SSN, unit address, duty phone, email address, and area(s) of specialty for performer and/or technician. Application packets must also include a 10-minute good quality DVD or VHS tape demonstrating your talent; an entertainment resume; a copy of the results of your most recent Army Physical Fitness Test, including height and weight; a copy of your updated enlisted or officer record brief; an official Department of the Army photo or similar photo in uniform; and a letter of intent for release from your chain of command.

The audition DVD or VHS tape submitted by performer applicants should include at least two different styles of vocal performance, demonstrating vocal range and musical variety, along with other special talents such as dance or the ability to play musical instruments. Applicants should keep in mind that the Soldier Show is a family-oriented production.

Musician nominees must also submit a good quality audio tape.

Technical applicants should provide

a resume of experience in sound, lighting, construction, carpentry and/or stage management, with photos of any past work, if possible.

The letter of intent for release must state that if you are selected to become a cast or crew member for the U.S. Army Soldier Show, your unit agrees to release you for a temporary duty assignment to Army Entertainment Division for the duration of the tour. Soldier performer candidates must have a letter of release from their respective commands covering the period March 1 through Nov. 30, 2007; technician candidates, from Feb. 1 through Nov. 30, 2007.

All applicants must have a minimum of 90 days time-in-service remaining after completion of the tour; must meet height and weight standards IAW AR 600-9; and the most recent Army Physical Fitness Test may not be older than 6 months. Profiles are examined on a case-by-case basis.

Video auditions and technical review will be conducted in mid-January 2007 and AED will confirm availability of Soldiers for auditions with their units/installations no later than Jan. 27, 2007. TDY orders will be issued and all costs will be paid by AED for travel to the final audition process at Fort Belvoir, Va.

In addition to being scored by a panel of judges on showmanship, talent, and poise, the finalists must pass physical training and drug tests, uniform inspection and a dance audition. Audio and lighting technicians are selected based on their military and civilian theater experience and training, recommendations, and military record.

Upon conclusion of auditions, Soldiers selected to the cast for the 2007 Soldier Show are attached to the Family and MWR Command for duty with the U.S. Army Entertainment Division for the duration of the tour. The Soldier Show operates as a deployable military unit under the military leadership of the Army Entertainment Detachment's first sergeant and under the artistic leadership of the Soldier Show artistic director.

Soldiers who are not selected will be returned to their respective units.

Soldier Show cast and crew are expected to adhere to military physical fitness, deportment and appearance standards. They are assigned specific military responsi-

bilities and show duties commensurate with their rank, in addition to their functions and responsibilities within the show, such as vocal director, dance captain, wardrobe/costume manager, technical crew chief and stage manager.

The new cast and technical crew spend six weeks at Fort Belvoir, Va., in intensive rehearsal under the direction of a civilian artistic staff which includes several Soldier Show alumnae.

Twelve to 16-hour days begin with a military formation and include aerobic workouts, vocal coaching, dance training, and learning how to assemble and dismantle the stage trusses. The technical crew learns computer-based lighting, audio and video functions as they design the show's lighting, sound and effects.

In addition to learning choreography, performers memorize as many as 40 songs ranging from country, R&B, gospel and rock chart-toppers to Broadway tunes, movie themes, oldies, soul, patriotic songs and even classical operatic pieces combined in solos, duets, group and high-energy, fast-paced production numbers that make up the 90-minute show.

Once on the road, Soldiers work an average 14-hour day, seven days a week for six-and-a-half months. Totally self-contained, the cast and crew offload, load, set-up, and dismantle 18 tons of equipment at each stop on the tour, including four miles of cable and 100 theatrical lights. During the tour, they will handle more than a million pounds of electrical, sound, stage and lighting gear.

The Soldier Show is not funded with taxpayer dollars, but with non-appropriated funds generated from business programs of Morale, Welfare and Recreation and with corporate sponsorship.

There were some 200 applications for 17 performer spots in the 2006 show.

Artistic inquiries may be sent to Victor.Hurtado@cfsc.army.mil, and military questions should be addressed to First Sgt. Tarron Pierce at DSN 312-656-4937 or 001-703-806-4937. More information about the U.S. Army Soldier show is available at: www.armymwr.com/portal/recreation/entertainment/armysoldiershow/.

SCHINNEN NOTES

Are you scheduled to PCS this coming year?

Do you have a subscription for Dutch cable TV, ISP Internet connection, KPN telephone?

If so, it is never too early to establish a To Do List. WHY? Oftentimes in the Netherlands you are required to notify service providers at least 30 days in advance of the date you wish to have your subscription cancelled. Why pay for 30 days of service that you will not receive the benefit of?

A To Do List will allow you to notify Dutch service providers well in advance of your scheduled PCS Move and allow you to keep some hard-earned money in your pocket.

Slip Sliding' Away Can Cost You Your Life

USAREUR Public Affairs

Winter is quickly approaching, and not preparing your car for it could cost you up to 40 euros and a point on your license.

"If you can't properly drive uphill in the snow, and people have to drive around you, you're a hindrance, and you will get fined," said German police officer Sgt. 1st Class Sven Stadtrecher, liaison to the U.S. Army Garrison Heidelberg.

A German traffic law in effect since December 2005 mandates that vehicles must be appropriately outfitted for the weather – which includes appropriate tires and sufficient antifreeze-treated window washer fluid, Stadtrecher said.

The penalty for not being in compliance with the law is a 20 euro fine for having trouble maneuvering a vehicle, or a 40 euro fine and one traffic point if trouble maneuvering a vehicle impedes others or causes a wreck, Stadtrecher said. He added that since the law is relatively new, there will likely be increased checks on the road.

John Cable, Heidelberg traffic accident investigator, said drivers should equip their cars with tires that are labeled with either a snowflake and/or "M+S," for mud and snow.

Cable said studded tires and mixing different styles of tires is illegal in Ger-

many, and putting snow tire chains on summer tires also is not allowed. And, he noted, some places in Europe require snow tire chains in addition to winter or M+S tires, when posted.

"If you're in the Alps without chains, you will be completely immobilized," Cable said, adding that servicemembers should research local winter traffic laws when traveling to other European countries.

Besides avoiding a run-in with local law enforcement, there are several other reasons to properly equip vehicles, Cable said. One is that while salt is used to melt ice on roads, it takes time for the salt to take effect.

"I see people try and follow salt trucks on the autobahn, thinking that should do it" said Cable. "All they're doing is damaging their vehicle because salt is not an immediate solution."

Cable added that drivers should watch their speed, the number-one factor in car accidents among Soldiers. They should also watch for "black ice," which forms in hard-to-see slick surfaces, usually in shaded areas of winter roads, he said.

"Ice mixed with speed will triple your stopping distance," Cable said.

EMERGENCY AT HOME

If you are confronted with an emergency at home and you need the **FIRE DEPARTMENT**, an **AMBULANCE**, or the **LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES**, call **1-1-2**. If you dial **1-1-2** you will be connected to a central operator. The operator will want to know which emergency service you need. Give all information requested. When the emergency service operator asks for an address you can either give them your full address (street name, house number, and city or town) or give them the postal code (four numbers and 2 letters) and the house number. Stay on the line until all questions have been answered. **IF SECONDS COUNT: DIAL 1-1-2.**

NON-EMERGENCY call to the police: If you have something to report to the local police authorities which is not an emergency you can call 0900-8844.

LEISURE

Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

Nov. 9: *Year Market* in the center of Druten (NL). Open: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Nov. 9-12: "*La Table en Fête Fair* (the festive table setting) at Grote Kerk in Naarden (NL) with more than 50 renowned exhibitors displaying festive table settings with antique and design china, silverware, wines, delicacies and lots more in the beautiful surroundings of the large church in the center of the historic and fortified city of Naarden. Entry: €12 (includes catalogue). Open: Nov. 9-10, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Nov. 11, noon-7 p.m.; Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Directions: A-1 Amsterdam/Amersfoort; exit at Naarden-Vesting; then follow signs "Grote Kerk".

Norwegian Christmas Bazaar at Noorse Kerk, D. Fortuynplein in Rotterdam (NL). At the bazaar one will find all kinds of Norwegian articles. Open: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Nov. 10-14: *Christmas Creative Fair* at Brabanthallen in Den Bosch ('s-Hertogenbosch) (NL). A fair where one will find beautiful decorations; presentations; demonstrations; workshops; food tasting; and lots more. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: €10.

Nov. 14-16: *Winter Fair* at cheese farm "De Weistaar" on Rottegatsteeg in Maarsbergen (NL). The fair presents the best winter can offer such as fashion shows; furniture; glühwein; old crafts; ceramics; jewelry; glass; and lots more. Entry: €5.50. Open: Nov. 14-15, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Nov. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 15-19: *WoonMecca* a large life-style fair at MECC in Maastricht (NL) with all the latest new styles and trends. Open: Nov. 15-17, 1-10 p.m.; Nov. 18-19, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €7.50.

Nov. 16-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* in Bochum (Germany). Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Nov. 17-19: *Christmas Creative Fair* at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Open: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: €7.

Art & Antique Fair with participation of several renowned art and antique dealers at Jachtslot "De Mookerheide" in Molenhoek (NL) near Nijmegen (NL). Entry: €6 (incl. refreshment). Open: Nov. 17, 6-9 p.m.; Nov. 18-19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 17-Dec. 19: *Christmas Market* in Fluweelengrot (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg 27 in Valkenburg (NL). A unique Christmas Market held in the unique environment of the caves under the castle ruins. Opens in the weekends at 10 a.m. and on weekdays at noon; Closes Sundays – Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 9 p.m. Entry: €3.75; children (4-11) €1.75.

Christmas Market in a Cave at Gemeentegrot in the center of Valkenburg (NL). Open on weekdays, noon-9 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Entry: €3.50; children (4-11) €1.75.

Nov. 17-Dec. 23: *Christmas Market* at Boulevard Köningstrasse in the center of Duisburg (Germany). Open: Sundays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Nov. 26, 6-9 p.m.

Christmas Market outside Europe's largest mall in Oberhausen (Germany). Open Sundays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Nov. 18-19: *Christmas & Creative Fair* at Nekkerhal in Mechelen (Belgium) is a large indoor Fair with more than just a traditional Christmas Market. The more than 150 stands not only offer a variety of original gifts such as jewelry; accessories; ceramics; Christmas cards; decorations, flowers; plants and more but also leather goods; clothes; cosmetics; candles; perfumes and more. Open both days 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €6; children 12 and younger – free entrance.

Through Nov. 19: *The Secret of the Celts* at Museum on Keulsepoort in Venlo (NL). The environment of the Celts in prehistory and the echo of their culture in today's world are

themes of this large exhibition. Open: Tuesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. Entry: €5.50; children €3.50.

Nov. 19: *Gift & Presents Fair* in the center of Grubbenvorst (NL). Open: noon-5:30 p.m.

Nov. 19-26: *PAN Amsterdam* at RAI Parkhal in Amsterdam (NL) is the largest national Art and Antique Fair in the Netherlands. Open daily 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Entry: €12.50 (incl. catalogue).

Nov. 20-Dec. 22: *Christmas Market* in Potsdam (Germany). Open: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Nov. 22-26: *The Country & Christmas Fair* at Castle De Haar in Haarzuilens (near Utrecht) (NL) is an attractive fair in the beautiful setting of the castle. Open: Nov. 22-25, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: €4.50; children (12-16) €7.50.

Nov. 25-26: *Winter Christmas Fair* around Castle Amstenrade in Amstenrade (NL). Entry: €3.50. Open: Nov. 25, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Nov. 26, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Through Dec. 30: Large indoor *Antique & Flea Market* (Vrije Markt Cuijk) on Korte Oijen 3 in Katwijk (NL). This large market with 1500 stands features antiques, secondhand goods, artwork and lots more. Open every Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Entry: €2.50.

Through Dec. 31: Every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. you will find a *Flea Market* (Neuzelbeurs) with more than 300 stands at Volmerlaan 12 in Rijswijk (NL). Entry: €3.50.

A visit to the indoor *Bazaar* on Utrechtseweg 109c in Utrecht (NL) is always good for a nice day out. The Bazaar takes place every Saturday and Sunday and features new as well as secondhand goods. Open: Saturdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Entry: €2.50.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRING YOUR EXPERIENCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO THE 2007

AFAP Conference

Army Family Action Plan



A World of Experience Within Our Community

Thursday & Friday

8 & 9 Feb

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen

Do you have a suggestion on how to improve the quality of life in the Schinnen Community? It could be that what you learned in Korea or at Fort Hood or in Italy might help resolve an issue here.

Look for the **ORANGE** boxes and issue forms throughout the community or email your suggestions to:
ACS-Schinnen@Eur.Army.Mil

**Deadline for issues is Friday 9 January 2007**

For more information call ACS, USAG Schinnen:
DSN 360-7500 / COM 046-443-7500



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Story Time 1 Year Anniversary

Parents, you and your young child are invited to attend a very special Story Time, Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Schinnen Bookmark in celebration of Story Times' one year anniversary! There will be games, prizes, coloring books and a very special guest reader for you and your children to enjoy, Lt. Col. Eric D. Tilley, the USAG Schinnen commander. So be sure to come out and celebrate the anniversary of Story Time and enjoy the wonderful world of reading!!!!!!

LOSS and the Holidays

Have you or someone you know lost a loved one and find it difficult to cope during the holiday season? The Loss and the Holidays workshop presented by the Chaplains office could help. The workshop will be held from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the ACS building, Schinnen and from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 at JFC Brunssum Chapel, third floor. The workshop will give practical tips for dealing with holiday stress and difficulties because of a loved one's death. Please contact the chaplains office at 364.2307/2940 to reserve your place in the class.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dad's Christmas Miracle

A COMEDY BY PAT COOK
PERFORMED BY THE ALLIANCE PLAYERS

AT THE ALLIANCE THEATRE,
JFC HQ BRUNSSUM

Thursday, Nov 30th at 7pm
Friday, Dec 1st at 7pm
Saturday, Dec 2nd at 2pm & 7pm
Sunday, Dec 3rd at 2 pm

Tickets available at door - Adults €6, children 10 yrs and under €4.

